



Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative Early Care & Education Work Group

National MCH Goals/Arkansas Objectives Children & Families Goals #1 - #3

MCH Goal #1

All children will have access to high-quality and developmentally appropriate early care and education

Arkansas Objectives Related to Goal #1

.25 - .5 slots in quality programs per child under 5 in community; all parents/caregivers/families/providers have access to information about development and quality supports for young children.....more dollars for fewer slots in quality care.

More parent education and advertising regarding why children should attend preschool and then why they should attend a quality pre-school.

Higher Ed needs to be involved to ensure highly qualified providers

Sustain current funding plus some -- \$40 million -- roll beer tax into general revenue plus a bit more (\$20 million more)

Funding for materials, salaries, staff education, mentors

Increase awareness of QA --- consumers and school district

MCH Goal #2

Families of young children will have access to high quality, affordable care that facilitates achievement of their goals (e.g., employment, training/education)

Arkansas Objectives Related to Goal #2

.25 - .5 slots in quality programs per every child under 5, parents/families pay no more than 25% -- preferably less - of net income

Encouragement for all programs to move toward quality - (intermediate steps)

\$ incentives to parents for their child in high quality care

College scholarships for practitioners with CDA & articulation agreements between training institution & higher ed to apply some previous hours toward their degree

Increase awareness of what quality looks like & who is QA in community

MCH Goal #3

The child care provider capacity will be adequate to meet the needs of communities.

Arkansas Objective Related to Goal #3

Provisions for either compensation or benefits for caregivers which help keep them in the field (e.g. Rhode Island provides medical coverage for Family Child Care Providers).

Provisions for training compensation to keep them in the field.

Incentives for expansion of existing programs.

More communication between providers and state in order to meet capacity needs
Scholarships for tuition

Community Goals #4 - #6

MCH Goal #4

Early child care/education programs and providers will be linked to the overall service system and community resources.

Arkansas Objectives Related to Goal #4

Resource information is available to all early care providers

Tiered reimbursement system

Meetings with DDS, (community resources) and typical centers encourage working together for the most appropriate intervention for all children

Create local coalitions of providers – involve Center-based, Family Child Care, FFN – to provide information/ connections/understanding of resources available to them and families

Co-op idea for quality programs

Web-Site

Consultants trained on info

MCH Goal #5

Community businesses will support, subsidize, and/or provide child care.

Arkansas Objectives Related to Goal #5

Advocate and understand how early care supports education/economy

Create community based coalitions that provide funding to support local opportunities such as parent education, provider assistance, scholarships for children and staff.

Co-op idea link plus partnerships with business to increase quantity of supply where there is a need by developing collaboration amongst employers to support child care either through facility costs or offsetting the cost of quality

Add partners with ADED to commission a study on economic impact of childcare for the state.

Businesses mentor others.

MCH Goal #6

The state will ensure access to early learning opportunities for all children

Arkansas Objectives Related to Goal #6

Training for school administrators and Kindergarten staff on readiness indicators

Local child care administration networks with paid facilitators

Bring providers and local school staff together to plan community-based activities, create a “same page” mentality.

State Policy Goals #7 - #9

MCH Goal #7

State policies will support the availability of high-quality child care for all children

Policies and provisions in place (multiple methods) for providing information, activities and access to materials to all potential care providers, parents, FFN, FCC, CC.....

Arkansas Objective Related to Goal #7

Flood market with quality ads

Funding any willing provider

MCH Goal #8

State policies will support blended funding opportunities

Arkansas Objectives Related to Goal #8

No policies which create artificial barriers for serving all children in inclusive community based programs

Allow center to charge families differences in reimbursement rate and market value

All areas will have access to offer programs (ABC)

ADED \$ for facility cost and possible forgiveness loans for facility who meet certain criteria of quality

Specific training for superintendents, principals, and K-teacher on the readiness indicators and benchmark information.

MCH Goal #9

State policies will address transition challenges and links between early childhood education services/programs, including transition for children in special education

Arkansas Objectives Related to Goal #9

Licensing regulation will move beyond minimum requirements for health & safety to more closely approximate recommended ---- best practices ----higher reimbursement for higher quality

Tiered licensing with benefits beyond reimbursement rates

Some tightening of rules and regs. Possible implementation of a rating system.